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Letter dated 20 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, upon instruction from my Government, to submit to you a copy of a letter (see annex) signed by His Excellency Mr. Mari Bim Amude Alkatiri, Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, requesting the establishment in Timor-Leste of a special political office. I would highly appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) José Luis **Guterres**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

06-21608 (E) 200106

Annex to the letter dated 20 January 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you today in regard to Timor-Leste's continuing challenges and requirements.

Following consultations with President Xanana Gusmão, I am prepared to inform Your Excellency that we agree that the current United Nations Office in Timor-Leste (UNOTIL) should come to an end on 20 May 2006.

However, in view of the political consolidation, which the elections are part of, namely the planned elections for the National Parliament and Presidency in 2007, we would like to request that the United Nations consider establishing in Timor-Leste a special political office with the following components:

1. Electoral assistance to provide the Government with technical and logistical support.

2. Civilian advisers. As Your Excellency is aware, while we have made continuing progress during the UNOTIL mandate, there are critical areas that remain in need of secured and steady assistance, namely, in the justice and finance sectors.

3. Timor-Leste still needs support in the area of police training. Although, this can be provided through bilateral arrangements it is important to keep United Nations involvement in the training programme. Also, in view of the forthcoming elections in 2007 and the need to ensure an enhanced dialogue and cooperation between East Timorese and Indonesian security elements in order to prevent tensions and conflicts along the border, we believe the deployment of some 15 to 20 military liaison personnel as part of the special political office would be of crucial importance.

We have come a long way since the dark days of September 1999. The progress would not have been possible without your leadership and the steady commitment of our friends in the international community, but much remains to be done. Hence, we hope that our modest request will be positively considered.

In the meantime, we are planning a celebratory event on 19 and 20 May 2006, to bid farewell and to thank the United Nations and our friends as the current Mission comes to a close after nearly six years. We hope Your Excellency will honour us with your presence on that occasion for which invitations will be sent to leaders of Governments and agencies who have made significant contributions to the United Nations efforts in Timor-Leste since 1999.

(*Signed*) Mari **Alkatiri**
Prime Minister